policy decisions and also for developing intelligence regarding duty evasion. The number of such companies currently is approximately 1700.

(c) By the very nature of things it is not possible to furnish any estimate of Central Excise duty evasion. However, the amount of Central Excise duty evasion actually *detected* during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 (up to May) is furnished below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount of evasion detected
1987	1198.72
1988	355.43
1989 (up to May, 1989) . .	136.01
TOTAL	1690.16

Seizure of gold biscuits by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

3105. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 206 foreign marked gold biscuits weighing 24 kgs. were seized by officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence from a Maruti Car on Delhi-Haryana on June 8, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the details of the persons apprehended in this connection; and

(c) at what stage the prosecution stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes Sir. Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 206 foreign marked gold biscuits weighing over 24 kgs. worth Rs. 76.88 lakhs approximately from a Maruti Car on Delhi-Haryana border on 8th June, 1989.

(b) and (c) 3 persons namely, S/Shri Mahesh Chauhan, Vijay Kumar Dharne and Sanjeev Kumar Agarwal have been arrested and also detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

Steps to curb smuggling by sea, air and land

3106. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary steps have been taken by the Government to curb smuggling by sea, air and land along the borders of India;

(b) if so, what are the commodity-wise details of seizures during the past three years; and

(c) whether there has been any decline in these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The Government is firmly resolved to combat the menace of smuggling. The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country, particularly at the international airports, seaports and in the vulnerable areas of the coastline and the land borders has been geared up. The coastline of India extends to over 5689 Kms. and we have a total land frontier of about 15,200 Kms bordering Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Burma running through the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and the North Eastern States. In view of the magnitude of the task, close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in detection and prevention of smuggling namely: the Coast Guard, Border Security Force and State Police authorities etc. sophisticated equipment such as: X-ray baggage machines Metal detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly utilised. The persons found involved in smuggling activities are penalised in de-